

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS  
ON CATEGORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF COSTA RICA

The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Government of the United States of America;

Acting pursuant to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party; and

Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological material representing Costa Rica's cultural heritage;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Government of the United States of America shall, in accordance with its legislation, including the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, restrict the importation into the United States of America of certain archaeological material ranging in date from 12,000 B.C. to the time of the establishment of Hispanic culture in Costa Rica (approximately A.D. 1550), which may include categories of jade, gold, ceramics, stone, bone, resin, and shell identified in the list to be promulgated by the Government of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the Designated List), unless the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica issues a license which certifies that such exportation was not in violation of its laws.
2. The Government of the United States of America shall offer for return to the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica any object or material on the Designated List forfeited to the Government of the United States of America.
3. Such import restrictions shall become effective on the date the Designated List is published in the U.S. Federal Register, the official United States Government publication providing fair public notice.

## ARTICLE II

1. Both Governments shall publicize this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the reasons for it.
2. The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica shall continue to use its best efforts to maintain and share with the Government of the United States of America information about unauthorized excavations, thefts of cultural property, trafficking of cultural property, and other threats that jeopardize its cultural patrimony.
3. The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica shall continue to use its best efforts to take steps consistent with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to protect its cultural patrimony. To assist in these efforts, the Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate technical assistance to Government of the Republic of Costa Rica as appropriate under available programs in the public and/or private sectors.
4. The Government of the Republic of Costa Rica shall continue to use its best efforts to engage other countries having a significant import trade in archaeological materials from the Republic of Costa Rica to deter a serious situation of pillage of cultural property.
5. Each Government shall use best efforts to encourage interchange of archaeological materials for cultural, educational, and scientific purposes, including long-term loans of such materials to promote widespread public appreciation of and access to the Republic of Costa Rica's rich cultural heritage.
6. Each Government shall continue to endeavor to keep the other informed of the measures taken to implement this Memorandum of Understanding.

## ARTICLE III

The obligations of both Governments and the activities carried out under this MOU shall be subject to their respective laws and regulations, including those with respect to the availability of appropriated funds.

## ARTICLE IV

1. This MOU shall enter into force upon signature by both Governments; it shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years, unless extended.
2. This MOU may be extended and amended only by mutual written consent of both Governments.

3. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica shall review the effectiveness of this MOU before the expiration of the five (5)-year period in order to determine whether the MOU should be extended.
4. Either Government may notify the other, in writing through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate this MOU prior to its date of expiry. In such a case the termination shall come into effect six (6) months after the date of notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present MOU.

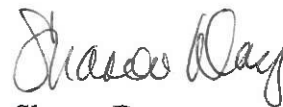
DONE at San José, Costa Rica, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January of 2021, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA:**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**



Rodolfo Solano Quirós  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Worship



Sharon Day  
Ambassador